

We need a moratorium on the addition of mega dairies in Oregon for 2 main reasons. Water and Air Quality.

Right now, Threemile Canyon Farms near Boardman has 70,000 cows on one location. There are 3 other dairies that have permits for over 2,500 cows. The former Lost Valley Farm had a permit for 30,000 cows. (What a bad deal for Oregon that was. The Easterday company would like to takeover this site. The parent company is embroiled in a possible paper cattle rustling with Tyson Foods. Will the dairy and feedlot too go down like the former company?)

There is an enormous amount of water needed for such operations. Water for crops to feed the cows, water needed to absorb nitrates from animal wastes, drinking water for the cows, water for washing barns, running machinery and other miscellaneous needs. The demands can be compared to a medium-sized city needs.

Livestock is the largest source of ammonia emissions in the U.S. It comes from the breakdown of urinary urea. When ammonia gas is released into the atmosphere it can react with nitric acid and sulfuric acid to form ammonium nitrate or ammonium sulfate. These two latter forms are the precursors in the development of fine particulates which has been known to cause respiratory problems in humans and contribute to haze and poor visibility.

This air pollutant is not limited to the dairy farm. DEQ has no studies of this area to see if these large dairies are contributing to poor health in Morrow and Umatilla Counties or if the acid atmosphere is affecting the health of the Columbia River Gorge.

I have an Associates Degree in Respiratory Care and I also have asthma.